



### RURAL ROAD NUMBERING – HOW DOES IT WORK?

Rural road numbering is a permanent and easy-to-follow way of identifying and locating properties in a logical sequence along any road in rural areas.

Rural road numbers are similar to the street number used in urban areas, the only difference being that rural road numbers are determined by the distance of the main property entrance from the start of the road.

Rural road numbers are calculated by dividing the distance in metres from the start of the road by 10 and rounding down to an odd (for properties on the left) or even number (for properties on the right) as required.

For example, a property entrance 930m from the start of the road and situated on the left-hand side of the road would be number 93. If the property entrance was on the right-hand side of the road, then the rural road number would be 92.



WATERFALL WAY CENTRE, BELLINGEN

### More to explore...

Pick up one of our other **Guides** to help you explore our beautiful area further: **Birds** – Bellingen Dorrigo & surrounds, **Walking** – Bellingen & surrounds, **Arts Trail** – Urunga Bellingen Dorrigo, **Waterfalls** – On the Waterfall Way.



### HOW TO GET HERE

Waterfall Way connects the ocean beaches and the rainforest of Coffs Coast with the Great Dividing Range, Armidale and the New England Tableland. Find yourself in Australia's best semi-tropical climate, midway between Sydney and Brisbane on the sun soaked Coffs Coast.

### CAR

Drive the coastal route (Pacific Highway) from Brisbane or Sydney or travel the New England Highway to Armidale and explore the chain of superb national parks bordering Waterfall Way en route. Combine an inland and coastal circuit from Sydney or Brisbane to enjoy this dramatic landscape and altitude change.

### AIR

Fly direct to Coffs Coast Airport (20 mins from Waterfall Way) from Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne.

### TRAIN

Countrylink trains daily – stop at Urunga by appointment.

### BUS

Sydney-Brisbane buses stop at Urunga. BYBUS runs buses along Waterfall Way on Mon, Wed and Fri. Go to [www.bybus.com.au](http://www.bybus.com.au)

### Visitor Information Centres

**i** Bellingen Shire  
Pacific Highway, Urunga  
Phone: 02 6655 5711

**i** Coffs Coast  
Cnr Pacific Hwy & McLean St  
Phone: 02 6648 4990

**i** Waterfall Way Centre  
Hyde Street, Bellingen  
Phone: 02 6655 1522

**i** Dorrigo Rainforest Centre  
Dome Road, Dorrigo  
Phone: 02 6657 2309

**i** Dorrigo  
Hickory Street, Dorrigo  
Phone: 02 6657 2486



# Scenic Drives

## DRIVING THE BELLINGER VALLEY



waterfallway



dorrigo • bellingen • urunga



### SOUTH COASTAL LOOP (SC)

Total distance 48km (excluding options)

This drive takes in the towns of Brierfield, Raleigh and Urunga, and covers a wide range of scenery – creeks and rivers, rainforest, eucalypt forests, paperbark swamps and mangroves, as well as fertile rolling farmland and stunning beaches. Opportunities for oceans swims and boardwalks.



SC1 – VIEW FROM BELLINGEN LOOKOUT

Head south out of Bellingen along Church Street and at the roundabout turn left towards Brierfield. After another 1km (2.9km since starting) you can turn left to get to a lookout over Bellingen **SC1**. The gravel

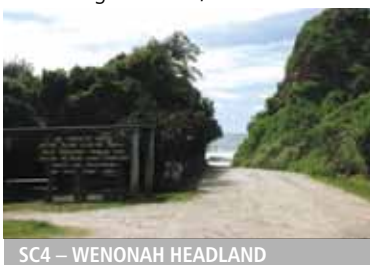
track is 400m long and you keep to the left all the way (you may want to walk up this track if your car has low clearance).

Continue out along Bowraville Road through State Forests and farmland, past Brierfield Hall **SC2** and across the Kalang River and Spicketts Creek on rattling wooden bridges. Bear left into Martells Road (10.7km since starting) heading towards the coast on a narrow road (recommended speed less than 60kph). The road leads through coastal rainforest and farmland, skirting Kalang River **SC3** in places, and crossing paperbark swamps and mangrove creeks as you near the coast. Of the nearly 14km on this stretch, 5.5km is paved and 8.3km is gravel.

At the T-junction with the Pacific Highway, turn right, with due care! Just 1.7km south on the Highway, turn left into Hungry Head Road (Tourist Drive 16).

**OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP 1 – Wenonah Headland (7km return trip – 2km gravel)** After 1km, turn right into Osprey Drive driving past macadamia farms and lakes, with likely sightings of kangaroos (PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY). Once on the gravel road, there is a railway crossing\* and you

bear right to follow the track to Wenonah Headland **SC4**. There is a long beach, toilets, shelter with picnic tables and BBQs (wood). Dogs and 4WDs are allowed on the



SC4 – WENONAH HEADLAND

beach. After a brisk walk or swim, return to Hungry Head Road and turn right. (End of optional side trip 1).

After crossing the railway bridge on Hungry Head Road, continue ahead (give way!), and take the one-way drive (1.5km loop) down to Hungry Head Beach **SC5**, with a perfect paddling lagoon and of course ocean swimming (patrolled in school holidays – October to Easter). Next to the Surf Club, other facilities include toilets, picnic tables and BBQs (wood). Back on Hungry Head Road, go straight ahead (give way!), heading north to Urunga.

Take the main entrance into Urunga Heads Holiday Park on your right, to the car park, where you can take the 1km walk (wheelchair friendly) along the Urunga Boardwalk **SC6** to a viewing platform at the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers entrance.



SC6 – URUNGA BOARDWALK

Coming out of the Holiday Park, turn right, then left into Bellingen Street and past the Urunga Golf Course, following the road round to the Bellingen Shire Visitor Information Centre **SC7** at Urunga. Turn left to head north on the Highway. After 1km, you can turn right into Yellow Rock Road (see below), or continue north for another 2.5km where you take the exit for Waterfall Way (Route 78, Tourist Drive 18).

#### OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP 2 – Yellow Rock Road (9km round trip)

Cross the railway\* and follow the road past Maramba Park (with toilets and a children's playground) and along the north bank of the Kalang River, bending round to follow the south bank of the Bellinger River, across from Mylestom **SC8** (North Beach). There is wide flat farmland, with some huge mature fig trees and old stockyards. Cross the railway\* (again!), past the Norco factory and the Raleigh Winery. At the roundabout go straight ahead and then turn right onto Waterfall Way. (End of optional side trip 2).

Follow signs to Bellingen at the roundabout. There are two Lookouts on the way back – one in Fernmount **SC9** after 5km (turn right into Tyson St and left into Baker St and stop at the reserve on the right after 300m) and the other on Marx Hill **SC10** after 10km (on the right of the Waterfall Way). Both offer views across the Bellinger River to the mountain range to the north and west of Bellingen.

\* The South Coastal loop has several level crossings – please make sure you obey them as trains can run at any time, day or night and in either direction. Always approach cautiously and be prepared to stop at "Give Way" and "Stop" signs.

### NORTH COASTAL LOOP (NC)

Total distance 48km (excluding options)

This drive visits the settlements of Repton and Mylestom as well as rivers, beaches and forests.



SC10 – ROTARY LOOKOUT, MARX HILL

Opportunities for river and ocean swimming as well as a walk through magnificent coastal rainforest.

Head north out of Bellingen on Bridge Street (by the Post Office). Cross the Bellinger River on Lavender's Bridge and at the roundabout turn right on Wheatley Street, which soon becomes North Bank Road and wends through farmland and forested hills for 13km.

Turn left onto the Old Pacific Highway and then right into Mylestom Drive (signposted Repton/Mylestom). On the 5km drive to Mylestom (a delightful coastal village nestled between the river and the ocean) you follow the north bank of the Bellinger River, passing paddocks and old stock yards. At the end of the road is the Alma Doepel Reserve **NC1**, which is a perfect location for a family picnic, with a tidal enclosed



NC1 – ALMA DOEPEL RESERVE

river pool, as well as a children's playground, toilets, picnic tables (covered and outside) and BBQs (wood). 100m off to the north is the North Beach Surf Club with the beach, ocean swimming and

4WD driving on the beach (only to the south). Returning back along Mylestom Drive, you can drive straight ahead, or after 3.8km...

**OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP 3 – Tuckers Rock Road (10km return)** Turn right on Repton Road and continue right up the hill. At the top turn right, onto Tuckers Rock Road. You are now in the heart of Repton, which is a widespread settlement of lifestyle blocks, perfectly located near the coast. The 4.3km drive to Tuckers Rocks is mostly well-graded gravel through the coastal forest of Bongil Bongil National Park – follow the main track, bearing right at the water tank, right at Caperground Trail and right at Tucker Trail. Make a sharp right just



after Tuckers Rock cottage and descend to the car park **NC2**. Here you can walk the Bluff Loop Trail (1.8km) or the Bundageree Rainforest Walk (6km return). Returning along Tuckers Rock Road, go straight ahead at the crossroads into Perrys Road and after another 1km you come to Perrys Park Lookout **NC3**, where you get scenic vistas west to the



NC3 – PERRYS PARK LOOKOUT

mountains and south across the Bellinger River to Picket Hill and Nambucca Heads. There is a shelter with benches and a BBQ (wood). Back on the main drive. (End of optional side trip 3).

Turn left at the T-junction onto the Old Pacific Highway and take the first right into Valery Road. Drive under the Pacific Highway and in the next 2km do a sharp right and left following paddock corners. At the T-junction turn right (the entrance to Raleigh International Raceway is straight ahead) and there is an 8km stretch to the next junction, approximately half of which is gravel. In this section, driving through the western reaches of the Bongil Bongil National Park, there is the chance of a koala sighting for those with keen eyesight. We cross a ratty wooden bridge and are in the rural location of Valery **NC4** with the Bush Fire Brigade shed and Valery Trails (horse-riding centre). Turn left at the T-junction, towards Gleniffer and after 1km turn you have the option of turning left again into Hydes Creek Road to return to Bellingen, or continuing ahead along Timboon Road and joining the Promised Land Loop Drive at the Gleniffer Hall crossroads (see **PL2**).

Hydes Creek Road leads for 10km through lush farmland to rejoin North Bank Road – turn right and then left at the roundabout to head back across Lavenders Bridge to the starting point.

### PROMISED LAND LOOP (PL)

**Total distance 31km (excluding options)**

**This drive takes in Gleniffer and the well-named Promised Land area, with the road criss-crossing the pristine Never Never River.**

**Opportunities for refreshing freshwater swimming.**

Head north out of Bellingen on Bridge Street (by the Post Office). Cross the Bellinger River on Lavender's Bridge turn left at the roundabout onto Wheatley Street, which then changes into Gleniffer Road as you head out of town, down the hill and across the river flats. After 3km, follow the road to the right for the direct route to Gleniffer and wind through Tuckers Nob State Forest for 4km, or go straight ahead into...



PL2 – GLENIFFER HALL

**OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP 4 – ROSES ROAD (7km)** Roses Road is another pretty area, close to Bellingen, with lifestyle blocks, fertile land and rainforest. After 3km there are views west up Bellinger Valley **PL1**. Turn left at the T-junction to return to Gleniffer Road. (End of optional side trip 4).

As the forest ends and you can see Gleniffer Church off to the right, which was the inspiration for Peter Carey's novel 'Oscar and Lucinda'.

At the crossroads **PL2** go straight ahead. On the right, is the Gleniffer Hall (School of Arts 1918). Cross the Never Never River – at the Keogh Reserve on the right you can picnic in the park and have a swim at a calm swimming hole.



PL3 – NEVER NEVER BRIDGE

Take the first right onto Promised Land Road for a 11km loop drive, about half of which is well graded gravel. At each of the bridge crossings you can park either before or after the bridge and follow tracks through the trees to lovely swimming holes **PL3 PL4** among the pebbles and boulders. After 7km **PL5** there is a beautiful vista of the Bellinger Valley.

Returning to the Gleniffer crossroads, you can go straight ahead to return to Bellingen, or take optional side trip 5.

**OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP 5 – Gordonville and Thora (30km round trip)** Turn right onto Gordonville Road, and, after 2km, make a sharp left following the main road and after another 4km continue right into Summervilles Road. Near the end of the drive west you cross the Rosewood River – another great swimming spot, but with only limited parking. Winding up the hill you come upon the Waterfall Way. Turn left towards Bellingen and you get to Thora **PL6**, which has a General Store, a Community Hall (with stunning mosaics across the front verandah, see image below), and Roses Reserve (toilets, picnic tables, free camping, BBQs (wood), path down to river). Returning to Bellingen you pass macadamia and pecan farms, and can see McGrath's Hump to your left. At 852m high, this mountain is a major Bellingen landmark. Based on Koori legend, it is the profile of a warrior's face. His name was Ngali and it was his job to protect the women that came to give birth to their babies in the Bellinger area. He fell asleep and was punished by being turned into stone and he is watching the place for ever and ever. (End of optional side trip 5).

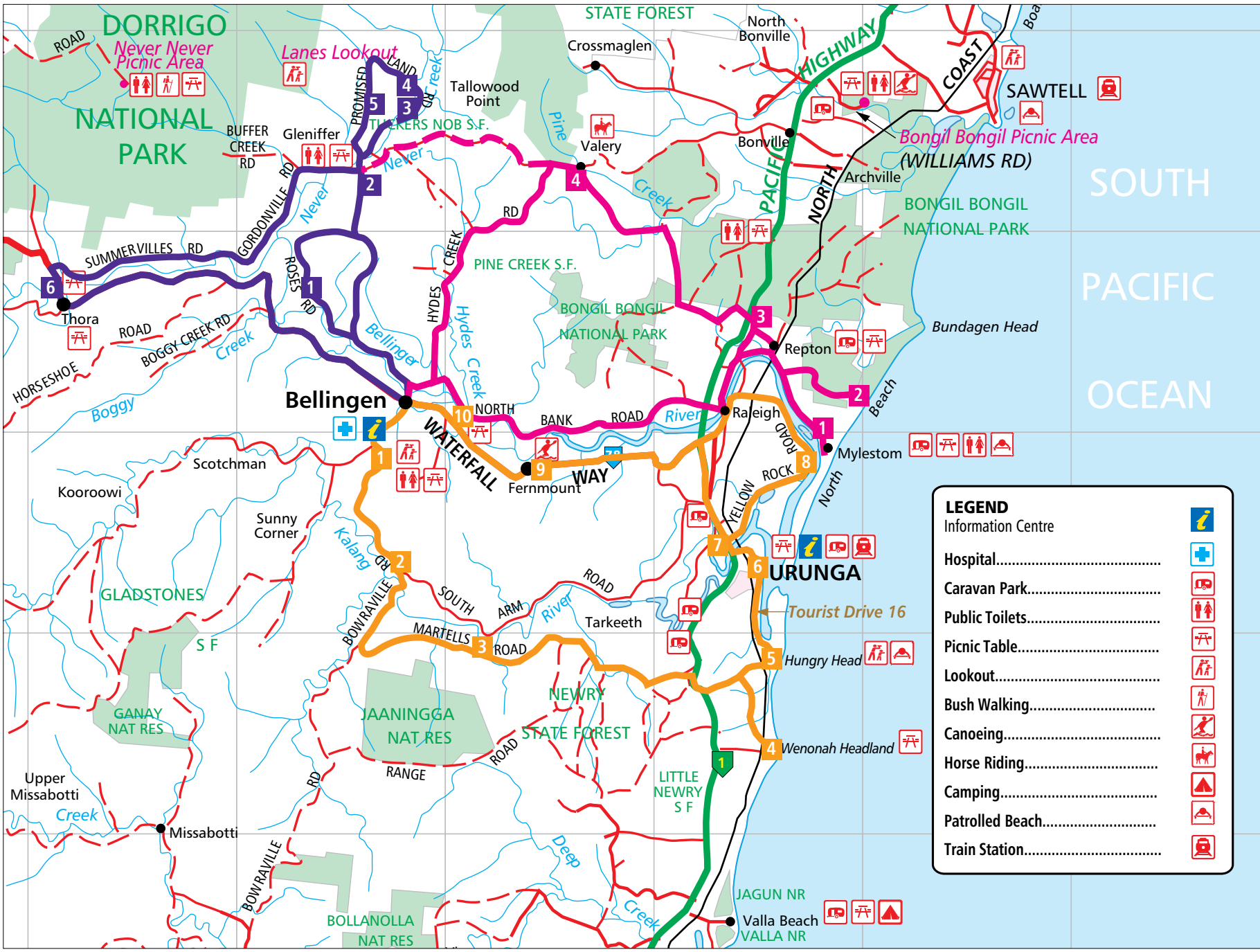


PL4 – NEVER NEVER RIVER



# Scenic Drives

DRIVING THE BELLINGER VALLEY



## SCENIC ROUTES

- NORTH COASTAL LOOP (NC)
- PROMISED LAND LOOP (PL)
- SOUTH COASTAL LOOP (SC)

**LEGEND**

- Information Centre
- Hospital
- Caravan Park
- Public Toilets
- Picnic Table
- Lookout
- Bush Walking
- Canoeing
- Horse Riding
- Camping
- Patrolled Beach
- Train Station

## Driving the Bellinger Valley

All drives are suitable for both 2WD and 4WD, but additional care should be taken on narrow or gravel sections, to allow for other traffic, which can include logging trucks and school buses as well as cars and vans.

The drives are all loops from the Waterfall Way Centre – we recommend setting your trip meter to zero at the start.